

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 1, 2001

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CONYERS QUESTIONS PROPOSED DOJ/MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Rep. John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement in connection with a possible antitrust settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft:

“If the reports I have read about the settlement are true, that means that the Department will have settled the most significant antitrust case in the last generation on terms less favorable to consumers than the settlement rejected by the government prior to the lower court decision and before the case was upheld on appeal. This is like losing a game by forfeit when your team was ahead with the bases loaded and your best batter on deck.

“This raises the very real perception that such inexplicable and irrational behavior by our nation’s top law enforcement agency may be attributable to political pressure, rather than the public interest. On September 6, I sent a letter to the Department asking them to justify their decision to drop the break up charge and itemize any contacts between the White House and the defendant in the case. I have never received a response to this letter. I have also asked to be briefed by the Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust, Charles James, before any settlement is announced. Again, the Department has refused to honor my request. This series of events raises even further concerns, and I intend to follow up on my requests for information, including any actions taken by personnel who have recused themselves from the case.”

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